

There are few areas where Army installations and their neighboring communities do not depend on each other. In Washington State, for example, Fort Lewis and McChord Air Force Base form a major part of the Pierce County economy. They are the single biggest contributor, spending more than \$1.6 billion a year in salaries, benefits and contracts. There are similar, mutually beneficial Army-community relationships around the country.

This fact sheet uses Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia as another example of Army and community interdependence. Your community probably has many connections with the Army that are often taken for granted.

A part of the community

The operations at Fort Stewart generate substantial revenues to local economies through wage and salary payments to military and civilian employees, construction contractor payments, and operating costs such as rent and lease payments for various types of equipment, utilities, telephone, office supplies, and nonconstruction contracts.

Savannah, along with neighboring southeast Georgia and coastal South Carolina, has an active military presence supported by a long military history. The presence of Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield (HAAF) has a significant beneficial impact on the region's economy. They are coastal Georgia's largest employer with 19,578 soldiers; 30,763 military dependents; and 3,707 civilians



How does an Army installation impact the local economy?



contributing to the economy. The combined 2000 payroll for Fort Stewart and HAAF was \$801 million. The Georgia Chamber of Commerce estimates Stewart and Hunter's overall economic impact on the region is over \$2.0 billion annually.

Purchases in the area by more than 25,000 military personnel assigned to Fort Stewart and their 40,000 family members make a significant contribution to the retail and service segments of the local economy. The positive contribution of Fort Stewart can be expressed in another way, induced

Fort Stewart is the largest military installation east of the Mississippi River, covering 279,270 acres in five different counties. Nearby Savannah is the site of Hunter Army Airfield, a vital part of the Fort Stewart complex. Hunter serves as a location from which troops and equipment can be deployed rapidly throughout the world.

direct and indirect employment. In other words, the employment induced into the area around Fort Stewart (from the multiplier effect of assigned military personnel and civilian employees) could range from 34,000–54,000 jobs. The total civilian employment in the six-county area surrounding Fort Stewart totaled 142,845 in 1996. If the civilian employment on post and the maximum induced employment off post are considered, between 24–39 percent of the six-county jobs can be attributed to the presence of Fort Stewart.

For more information contact:
Environmental Noise Program
U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and
Preventive Medicine
MCHB-TS-EEN
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5403
410-436-3829
<http://chppm-apgea.army.mil/enp/enp.htm>

This fact sheet is part of *Noise Management—A Primer on Facilitating Community Involvement and Communicating with the Public*. This guide, along with its companion CD, can help you educate and engage stakeholders on and off your installation, and generate support for noise management activities.

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